

Welcome Day 14 April 2026



Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS)
Dr. Sabine Schäfer

A few words about doing a PhD

- First phase of professional academic career leading to jobs inside and outside academia
- What it takes to succeed in academia:
 - Achievements
 - Support
 - The claim to a 'place of one's own'
- BGHS: 3 leading principles: interdisciplinarity, internationality, self-initiative
- BGHS: The more you take part, the more you get out of it.

BGHS community (October 2025)

177 doctoral researchers: 48 in history, 129 in sociology

58% female, 36% international

14% scholarship holders, 60% academic staff, 14% non-academic
employment, and 12% individually funded researchers

297 alumni since 2008

50 professors: 20 in Department of History

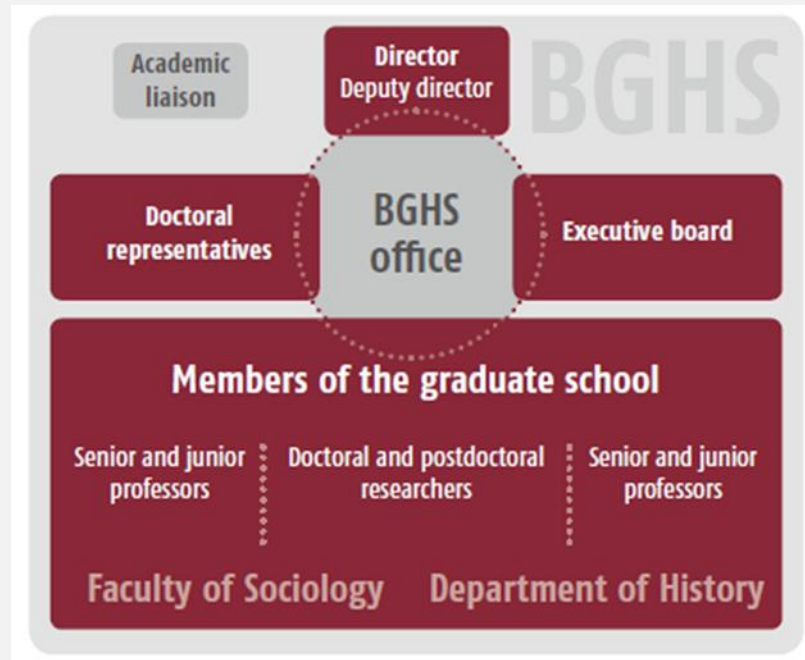
30 in Faculty of Sociology

BGHS structure

Ruth Ayaß (*director*)
Frank Grüner (*deputy director*)

Academic liaison
Hartmann Tyrell

Doctoral representatives
Anastasia Serikova
Nicolas Barden
Richard Höter
Elisabeth Schmidt



BGHS office
Clara Buitrago
Nicole Käufler
Sabine Schäfer

Executive board
Ruth Ayaß
Nicolas Barden
Clara Buitrago
Lars Deile (dean)
Oliver Flügel-Martinsen (dean)
Frank Grüner
Martin Kroh
Teresa Malice
Christina Morina
Lisa Regazzoni
Leopold Ringel
Anastasia Serikova
Tobias Werron

Communication & information

Weekly newsletter as central source of information

[BGHS blog](#) on website

“Chances and Challenges – The BGHS Podcast”

For study programme please see [eKVV](#) (electronic study programme)

For information about the BGHS please see <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/einrichtungen/bghs/>

or contact us: bghs@uni-bielefeld.de

For information on the faculties please see:

Department of History
<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/geschichtswissenschaft/index.xml>

Contact:
Dr. Bettina Brandt
(bettina.brandt@uni-bielefeld.de)

Faculty of Sociology
<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/>

Contact:
Astrid Dinter
(promotionsausschuss.soz@uni-bielefeld.de)

Doctoral training programme

Supervision Agreement of doctoral researchers, supervisors and BGHS

Support in conflict situations: academic liaison Prof. Dr. Hartmann Tyrell or Dr. Sabine Schäfer

Annual progress reports (first report after 6 months)

Confirmations of attendance

“Transcript of the Doctoral Programme” after completion of study programme

BGHS curriculum

Mandatory programme: 6 CP

one Theory Class
= 0.5 CP



two to four
Transferable Skills
Workshops = 1 CP
(BGHS, PEP or other)

one Methods Class
= 0.5 CP

four Research Classes
= 4 CPs

Conference paper: 0.5 CP
Organising a workshop: 1 CP
Participation in a study group: 0.5-1 CP
Post as a doctoral representative: 0.5 CP

Colloquium with own paper: 1 CP
Colloquium without own paper: 0.5 CP
Research Retreat: 0.5 CP
Teaching a course of one's own: 0.5-1 CP

Optional programme: 4 CP

Special BGHS features

Post as a doctoral researchers' representative

Research Retreat in November at VHS Bielefeld

Online event with BGHS alumni working in different fields of culture on 23 April, 2 p.m.

Organisation of a workshop (funding available)

Public lecture series “Linie 4” in May and June

BGHS YouTube channel: film series „Von Menschen und Dingen – Wissenschaft im Gespräch“

Working Paper Series

Advice on funding opportunities for international mobility and other things

Welcome to the BGHS!